

CONSERVATION

Conservation pact approved for ocean lot

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DUXBURY

DUXBURY — After receiving word from the town assessors that it would not necessarily hurt the town's tax revenues, the selectmen granted a conservation restriction on a South Duxbury waterfront property last night.

The board first took up the issue at a meeting two weeks ago, but wanted to know how the deal, which forbids significant construction on the three-acre parcel between Marshall Street and Eagles Nest Bay, would affect the property's assessment.

Selectmen had expected the assessment to drop, but officials from the assessors' office said that might not be the case and that the assess-

ments for the surrounding properties could increase if those properties became more valuable once buyers knew that there could not be a huge house next door.

"There will be an effect on the abutting properties," said Tom Marquis, chairman of the board of assessors.

How great that effect will be or what will happen to the restricted parcel, however, is still unknown.

"Until we have a history of what the market has done, we don't act, from an assessing point of view," Deputy Assessor Richard Finnegan said.

With that reassurance, the selectmen voted unanimously to grant the

restriction on property owned by Mary Winslow. The agreement would reduce property taxes and potential federal estate taxes.

The Wildland Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts will administer the restriction, which prohibits tree-cutting in a 50-foot deep strip on the ocean side of the property and requires that no future dwelling exceed the current house size — 23 feet high and 2,000 square feet.

"I've driven by the property and I do think it's in the town's interest," board Chairman John Tuffy said.

The selectmen voted unanimously to approve the measure. It now goes to the state's secretary of environmental affairs for signature and will become the ninth conservation restriction in Duxbury.

In other business, the board:

- Voted to endorse a letter from the Massachusetts Coalition to Stockpile Potassium Iodide urging that the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission require that nuclear utilities provide pills of the compound in case of a nuclear emergency.

Potassium iodide, if taken within six hours of exposure to nuclear materials, reduces the risk of thyroid cancer, according to supporters.

- Reappointed Albertina Bruce, Eleanor Murray and Joe Shea to the municipal commission on disabilities.

- Appointed John Erickson and reappointed John Anderson, Mary Lampert and Susan Littlefield to the nuclear advisory committee.